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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/988,527	11/20/2001	Jean-Pierre Mao	034299-364	8860

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EXAMINER

SEFCHECK, GREGORY B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2619

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/988,527	Applicant(s) MAO, JEAN-PIERRE	
	Examiner GREGORY B. SEFCHECK	Art Unit 2619	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 December 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

- Applicant's Amendment filed 12/31/2007 is acknowledged.
- Claim 1-3 has been amended and remain pending.

Claim Objections

1. Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities:

On line 2, "aeroplanes" should be changed to "airplanes".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robins et al. (US006430184B1), hereafter Robins.

- In regards to Claims 1 and 2,

Robins discloses a process and device for communicating data packet flows, including Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM; Abstract; Col. 1, line 27; claim 1,2 – process/device for deterministic transmission of asynchronous data in packets).

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, data is received from the Quad PHY 1 physical interface at MOM 1 chip 10 (input module) and then stored in one of a plurality of FIFOs managed by Queue Manager 30 (QM; packeting module; Col. 5-6, lines 43-23; Col. 14, lines 15-28; claim 1,2 – receiving data at input module and storing digital data conveyed on continuous and cyclic messages arriving in a totally asynchronous manner in FIFOs connected to one or more non-self-sustaining packeting modules).

Robins further discloses Forwarding Engine 40 that provides instructions to the QM for packeting based upon received headers, which are added to the packets before transmitting them out so they may be recovered in their predefined order (sorting and enhancement data; Col. 7, lines 8-13; Col. 8, lines 8-57; claim 1,2 – packeting data from FIFOs in a first set of packets in a first packeting cycle according to a predetermined order with sorting and enhancement data; claim 1,2 – recovering one after another of the first packets, in a predefined order, to form a first message; claim 1 - allowing synchronization of start and end of packets in relation to their transmission in the output message such that the timing cycle between storing and outputting is controlled).

Robins discloses a “cut-through” mode of operation in which packeting is ended and the data is transmitted before a complete packet is realized, such that portions of a packet may be transmitted while other portions are still being received (Col. 17, lines 25-45; Col 16, lines 17-64; claim 1,2 – ending packeting cycle; claim 1,2 – forwarding first packets regardless of state of completion of first packeting cycle; claim 1,2 – beginning start of second packeting cycle).

Robins shows that packets are then sent out another port on a Quad PHY 2 (Fig. 1; claim 1,2 – setting/outputting of the message in the electrical format of the protocol used for transmission).

Robins does not explicitly show the “cut-through” mode of operation comprising a request from the message composition module.

However, Robins does disclose that the Forwarding Engine 40 is responsible for providing instructions to the QM and MOM for packeting according to the linked-lists of packet descriptors stored in buffers of the QM. Therefore, the instruction (request) to perform packeting in accordance with “cut-through” mode would come from the Forwarding Engine 40 (message composition module; Col. 7, lines 8-13; claim 1,2 – ending packeting cycle at the request of a message composition module, which controls packeting).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to initialize “cut-through” mode in the process and device of Robins through an instruction, or request, from the Forwarding Engine 40. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to do this because the Forwarding Engine 40 is already shown to provide instructions to the QM and MOM for packeting in a standard mode of operation, so any change to the mode of operation should be initiated from Forwarding Engine 40.

4. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robins in view of Leslie et al. (US005077671), hereafter Leslie.

- In regards to Claim 3,

Robins discloses a process and device for communicating data packet flows that covers all limitations of the parent claim.

Robins does not explicitly disclose the use of the process in data acquisition and real-time processing systems for flight test installation of new airplanes.

The use of the packetization process shown by Robins would be beneficial for data acquisition and real-time processing systems of any type, including those used on airplanes as shown by Leslie (Abstract; Fig. 1; claim 3 – use of claim 1 process in data acquisition and real-time processing systems for flight test installation of new airplanes).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize the process of Robins in data acquisition and real-time processing systems, including those used in airplanes, as shown by Leslie, so that portions of data packets can be transmitted while other portions of the packets are still being processed.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 12/31/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

- In the Remarks on pg. 4 of the Amendment, Applicant contends that Robins does not disclose storing "numerical or digital data conveyed on continuous and cyclic messages, issued by acquisition and processing systems which arrives in a totally asynchronous manner in FIFO registers", packet modules that are non-selfsustaining or a message composition module that "controls the packeting cycles" and receives outputs of all packeting modules, as in amended claims 1 and 2.
- The Examiner respectfully disagrees. As shown in the above rejections, Robins pertains to implementation of a process and system for switching connection of packet flows, including ATM flows. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize ATM flows as being made up of a continuous cycle of 53 byte asynchronous cells, thereby meeting the claim limitations of the "storing" step in amended claim 1. Furthermore, the Queue Manager 30 (QM) in Robins, which is mapped to the claimed "packeting module" relies on input and control from MOM1 and FE 40. Therefore, the QM meets the limitation of being non-selfsustaining. Finally, as mentioned above, Robins shows that the FE 40 (message composition module) controls all of the packeting performed by QM 30. Therefore, all contested claim limitations in amended claims 1 and 2 are shown to be properly met by the disclosure of Robins.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory B. Sefcheck whose telephone number is 571-272-3098. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wing Chan can be reached on 571-272-7493. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2619

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Gregory B Sefcheck/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2619
2-28-2008

/Wing F Chan/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
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3/5/08